(b) if so, the action proposed to harness Godavari Waters for around development of the backward and water-scarce Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Godavari Water issue was not in the Agenda for discussion at the World Water Forum Conference held in the Hague, Netherlands from 17th to 22nd March, 2000. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared an Action Plan to harness Godavari Water comprising of six projects of which reports of only two projects, namely Inchampalli and Polavaram were received from Government of Andhra Pradesh. The reports were examined and Government of Andhra Pradesh have been advised to resolve the inter-State issues and submit detailed projects reports taking into account the observations of Central Water Commission.

Tourism project for North Cachar Hills District

*711. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for a tourism project pertaining to North Cachar Hills District recommended by the State Government of Assam during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon alongwith the latest progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No such proposal prioritised and in the prescribed format has been received from the Government of Assam by the Ministry of Tourism during the year 1999-2000.

(b) Question does not arise.

Opening of LIC Branches in Meghalaya

*712. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Life Insurance Corporation in Meghalaya alongwith locations thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to open more branches of LIC in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that there are three branches of LIC in Meghalaya located at Tura, Shillong and Jowai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Enactment of effective laws to prevent encroachments around Ancient Monuments

*713. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws are not comprehensive and stringent enough to take care of the encroachers in and around our ancient monuments;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for amending those laws; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The existing laws are effective to deal with encroachers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Purchase of share holdings in Newspapers by the Financial Institutions

†*714. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a financial institution of Government of India had purchased share holding in the Pioneer newspaper;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof and conditions laid in this regard;

(c) the names of other newspapers wherein the financial institutions of Government of India have purchased share holdings; and

(d) the policy of Government of India in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.